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## ASUG Environmental Health & Safety SIG - April Newsletter

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### **Solutions for GHS: What You Need to Know**

**Jytte Syska & AI Voskian, 3E Company**

Implementing GHS compliance activities into your organization is no easy task. Companies need to re-evaluate how their substances and mixtures are classified for each regulatory entity, country and/or region and will likely need to re-issue several (M)SDSs and labels. There are service providers who can help companies stay ahead of the GHS curve with solutions for identifying and managing the increasingly complex and changing global chemical regulatory obligations associated with GHS. As GHS is adopted in countries and regions around the globe, these vendors can help address the new requirements and associated chemical regulatory information needed for compliance management as they arise.

Many companies choose to use reference tools which centralize all global chemical regulatory information into a robust, searchable, easy-to-use database. This provides quick access to official GHS classifications, including substance classifications published by the relevant authorities. Other features supporting GHS compliance include Translated GHS Classifications, GHS Labels, GHS Full Text, and GHS Phrases.

Other content tools may be used to feed chemical regulatory data into SAP® EH&S as well as diverse, custom, open corporate EH&S systems. These integrated data tools provide efficient change management and regular updates as regulations change and new ones are released. Other necessary tools are Expert Rules that not only ensure correct, consistent GHS classification and labeling according to the UN purple book, but also take into consideration the national deviations and other national regulations. Document templates for producing (M)SDSs, labels and other hazard communication documents, and Multi-Lingual Phrase libraries can complete the content suite for efficient production of accurate documents.

Companies may also choose to employ outsourced services for their GHS classification of substances and mixtures as a separate service and/or as part of outsourcing (M)SDS and label authoring for companies that need GHS classification.

In-house (M)SDS Authoring staff may want to adopt an authoring platform that will help generate Hazard Communication documents to meet GHS related international regulatory compliance and

business requirements. Such a platform should provide full support of hazard communication, classification, and labeling requirements to generate globally-compliant (M)SDSs and label documents as well as business/user definable documents, such as Technical Data Sheets, Product Data Sheets, Hazard Summaries, and Product Stewardship Summaries. The system should use algorithms to accommodate the requirements outlined in the GHS. This consists of the classification of substances and mixtures according to their health, environmental and physical hazards, and HazComm requirements for labeling and Safety Data Sheets.

For inbound vendor (M)SDS management, users will want to search, print, view, and e-mail vendor and raw material (M)SDSs in a company-specific database via a web browser interface. As GHS requirements increase the burden of vendor (M)SDS management, a robust (M)SDS Management System can help reduce the time and resources necessary for effective compliance management.

Achieving compliance with both REACH and GHS can be quite cumbersome. Strong processes, applications, systems and service providers are needed to support the various aspects of compliance management for REACH and GHS. Companies that are impacted by REACH and GHS can seek assistance from providers who are well-versed in data and other content and information as it relates to global EH&S regulations and who thoroughly understand the global regulatory environment. These providers will be able to assist in implementing REACH and GHS compliance activities into the organization, and can help facilitate compliance with these increasingly complex and changing global chemical regulatory obligations.

The ASUG EH&S SIG would like to thank Jytte and Al of 3E for this wonderful article and would like everyone who is interested or has questions to continue the conversation on the [ASUG EH&S Discussion Forum](#).

### **Hot Topics & Webcast Suggestions**

The [ASUG EH&S SIG](#) is always looking for Hot Topics that ASUG members are interested in hearing a presentation about, so if you have a topic or would be interested in presenting on a topic to the the ASUG EH&S Community, please email [Doug North](#), the EH&S SIG Chair.

### **SIG Volunteers:**

**Doug North** - *SIG Chair*

**Jim Sachse** - *SIG Program Chair*

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### ***Provide Your Feedback on Member Benefits***

*As a member-driven organization, your feedback is critical in ensuring that ASUG is effectively serving your needs. Please take a moment to share your thoughts, perceptions, and recommendations by completing the [2009 Member Needs Survey](#). As a token of our appreciation, individuals who respond by April 16, 2009 will be entered into a drawing to receive one of 25 \$100 American Express gift cards. (Please note: It should take approximately 25 minutes to complete this survey.)*